

the farmer and planter, by observation, study and practice, and when once understood, they will wonder at their past folly of land-killing, and grieve to know they practiced it so long, when a different and better system is so easily learned and pursued.

When we reflect upon the disasters to the soil, occasioned by the pursuit of the old method, and see the apparent apathy to, and indifference with which the more perfect and better system is viewed by some intelligent farmers and planters, at the present enlightened era and golden age of agricultural science, we feel alarmed for them, for their lands, and the succeeding generations.

What a poor inheritance to hand down to an industrious son, an old dilapidated homestead, with an old worn out, galled and gullied farm! Think of it, farmers and planters!

The very sight of decay all around, excites in the mind of the young man, disgust, despair, a disposition to abandon the old place, once so dear to him, and the family, now so much abused, and seek a newer and better place, richer land, among strangers. He has no desire to cultivate the worn out old-fields, and perhaps there is no new land to clear. The old method of plowing up and down hill, has much to answer for; it has driven many a young man to the South-west, and perhaps, eventually, to prison, or the gallows, who might have been a useful citizen, could he have remained at home, and made a living.

Whilst the *horizontal culture* and the *ridge and furrow system* are attracting the attention, and being adopted by intelligent planters and farmers, its principles must be studied scientifically and practically, and new discoveries in the art applied, tested, and settled in the minds of men, or else there will be no end to the diversity of opinions that may arise, and lead to discussions that may retard the advancement of the new science.

It would require much time and space to elucidate the different methods of the horizontal culture, as fully as some men may desire, perhaps.

We have endeavored to simplify it, and should some of our readers not comprehend it perfectly, all that we can say to them is, study the principles laid down here, and then take the *level* and follow the plumb, and it will lead them over more tortuous and obscure lines than we have penned here, and a few horizontal rows run with patience and care, will teach them more about it than was ever dreamed of in our philosophy.

Our aim has been, in writing this Essay, to collect together our ideas on this subject, to compare them with others, and deduce from them correct principles, and upon these principles establish with fidelity, practical rules, and thus accomplish by a general survey of the subject, and a brief enumeration of the details founded upon our own experience and observation, all that we think the State Agricultural Society of North-Carolina requires of the writer.

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